



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

Friday, October 10, 2008
7:30 pm. Walter Hall. Free

The Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts Program presents
2008-2009 Inaugural Year Program: *Telling Stories*

TALKING DRUMS SYMPOSIUM

Drumtalker: Concert by Nexus, John Miller Chernoff, and Dan Yashinsky

PROGRAM

The Invisible Proverb

Russell Hartenberger

1. Okarche
2. Drumtalker
3. Darkwater
4. Sky Ghost

With John Chernoff, Dan Yashinsky

Tongues

Traditional Zimbabwe/Nexus

With Dan Yashinsky, Storyteller

Bambaya

Traditional Dagomba

With John Chernoff

INTERMISSION

Drumming

Steve Reich

Suba Sankaran, Vicki St. Pierre, vocals
Laura Chambers, piccolo
Adam Campbell, Michelle Colton, Jamie Drake, Devon Fornelli, Tim Francom, percussion

NEXUS

Bob Becker, Bill Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger and Garry Kvistad

08|09
www.music.utoronto.ca

BIOGRAPHIES

John Miller Chernoff is author of the landmark book on *African music, African Music and African Sensibility*. He is also the author of two more recent books: *Hustling is Not Stealing: Stories of an African Bar Girl* and *Exchange is Not Robbery: More Stories of an African Bar Girl*. All books by The University of Chicago Press.

Dan Yashinsky is an internationally known storyteller, author of *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps: Storytelling for the Twenty-first Century*, and director of The Tellery.

The first, entirely improvised **NEXUS** concert in 1971 marked the formation of a group that would touch and entertain people of all levels of musical learning, in all genres of percussion music. Bob Becker, Bill Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger and Garry Kvistad are virtuosos alone, and bring elements of their knowledge and character to a distinct and powerful whole. They stand out in the contemporary music scene for the innovation and diversity of their programs, their impressive history of collaborations and commissions, their revival of 1920's novelty ragtime xylophone music, and their influential improvisatory ideas. NEXUS' firm commitment to music education and a steady output of quality CD recordings and compositions by its members continues to enhance the role of percussion in the 21st century.

NEXUS' music, with its widespread appeal, has taken the group on tours of Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Brazil, Scandinavia, Europe, and regularly to the United States and Canada. NEXUS is proud to have been the first Western percussion group to perform in the People's Republic of China. They have also enjoyed participating at international music festivals such as the Adelaide, Holland, Budapest Spring, Singapore Arts, Tanglewood, Ravinia, & Blossom Music Festivals, as well as the BBC Proms in London, Music Today and Music Joy festivals in Tokyo, and many World Drum Festivals. NEXUS is the recipient of the Banff Centre for the Arts National Award and the Toronto Arts Award. NEXUS was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 1999, just before celebrating their 30th anniversary season.

Especially renowned for their improvisational skills, NEXUS created the musical score for the National Film Board's *Inside Time*, which won the 2008 Yorkton Golden Sheaf award for best social/political documentary and the 2008 Robert Brooks award for cinematography. NEXUS also created the chilling score for the Academy Award-winning feature-length documentary *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*. NEXUS' list of high-profile collaborations includes the Kronos Quartet, the Canadian Brass, and clarinetist Richard Stoltzman.

Toru Takemitsu, a great friend to NEXUS, composed one of their signature pieces, *From me flows what you call Time*. This work, written with each NEXUS member's personality in mind, was premiered for Carnegie Hall's centennial celebration in 1990 with Seiji Ozawa conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra (and recorded on Sony with the Pacific Symphony). In 2005, Pulitzer Prize winning composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich composed *Rituals* for NEXUS and Chamber Orchestra. The work was recorded with the IRIS Orchestra on Naxos.

Compelled to share their insatiable curiosity, knowledge and passion, NEXUS has contributed greatly to musical education with symphonic and solo programs for family audiences, including three wonderfully-received student concerts with the Toronto Symphony last November. Internationally, NEXUS has participated in high school, college and university residencies giving master classes, workshops and concerts. NEXUS is ensemble-in-residence at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

Recent appearances include the 2008 Ojai Festival in California, Colours of Music, Cool Drumming, Collingwood, Kincardine and Ottawa Chamber Music Festivals, and at Woodstock Beat in New York. A solo CD entitled *Wings* has just been released, and their CD *out of the blue* with Fritz Hauser was released in March 2007. NEXUS' previous solo CD was the Juno-nominated *Drumtalker*. In 2007 NEXUS honored John Cage at Bard College's Fisher Center in New York, giving the U.S. premiere of *Dance Music for Elfrid Ide* (1940), which was rediscovered in 2005. Upcoming events include the premiere of a new concerto in Texas, written for NEXUS by celebrated composer and educator Eric Ewazen.